## **Special Educator Licensing Program**

# **Program Participants**

The program is open to special educators on waivers, classroom teachers, paraprofessionals with a teaching degree and licensed teachers working outside the classroom.

### **Program Design**

The Collaborative partners (The University of Vermont, the Vermont State Colleges and the Vermont Department of Education) work together to establish cohorts around the state- each affiliated with a specific higher education institution. Areas of the state are targeted where (a) there is limited access to higher education, (b) there is a large number of special education teachers on waivers and (c) there are requests from local school districts. The program consists of 21 credit hours of competency based course work including a supervised internship. Successful completion of the coursework will result in participants obtaining a special educator endorsement. In addition, this partnership allows for a reduced rate of tuition to project participants.

Instructors for the collaborative will either be (a) faculty who are currently teaching in one of the IHEs and/or (b) adjunct faculty from the field.

Due to the true collaborative nature of the project, an inter-institutional agreement was developed between UVM and the Vt. State colleges that enable the transfer of credits towards various Master's programs at participating institutions. Graduates are encouraged to continue their studies to complete a Masters of Education degree.

### **Program Outcomes**

As of February 2005, 130 participants have completed the program and 84 are employed as special educators. Currently, 29 people are working toward completion.

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#### Contact

Patty Morgan (802) 828-0554 or pattymorgan@education.state.vt.us